



Lambda Letters Project

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

32624

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Hate Crimes Rising

The California Attorney General's office recently reported that, while the general rate of crime in California is going down, the rate of reported hate crimes is going up significantly. According to the latest report, there were 1,962 hate crimes reported in 1999—a 12.11 percent increase over 1998. During that same period, reported sexual orientation-based hate crimes increased 12.6 percent.

The Attorney General has been issuing these reports since 1995. Since then the overall number of reported hate crimes has gone up 11.8 percent, while the number of reported sexual orientation-based hate crimes went up a whopping 37.5 percent during that same period.

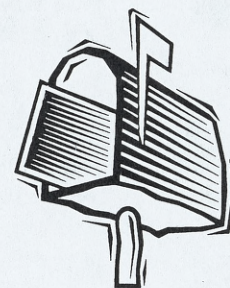
The total number of reported hate crimes hit a peak in 1996 (at 2,054) but has been going down ever since. By contrast, the number of sexual orientation-based hate crimes has increased every year, except in 1997. Typically about 80 percent of these crimes are committed against gay men.

For the first time, the Attorney General reported the number of hate crimes against transgendered people. This addition resulted from the passage of AB 1999 in 1998, which Lambda Letters cosponsored. The drive for counting and reporting hate crimes against

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Return Those Letters!

Even though Lambda Letters gained over 250 new members in July, the return rate on our mailings dropped significantly since then. Usually 70–80 percent of our members return letters to us each month. In July, the return rate was only 60 percent. August's rate was low too. Part of the problem is that our new members don't understand our process fully. Each month Lambda Letters sends you a set of letters relating to the four areas we cover: HIV/AIDS issues, LGBT issues, issues of concern to people of color, and women's issues. You are encouraged to sign the letters or compose your own. In either case, we ask that you return your signed letters to *Lambda Letters* for counting and delivery to elected officials. We always enclose a return envelope for this purpose.



This is important. We count the letters before delivering them to elected officials. That way we know how many they are getting and can counter claims by some legislators that no one writes them about our issues. The letter-count statistics are also helpful in promoting our work. Last year we delivered over 190,000 letters and messages. That information helps

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

July, 2000	18,236 letters & e-mails
In all of 2000	90,715 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

July, 2000	\$1,356
In all of 2000	\$12,257

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

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Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly except in December by Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Postmaster: send address changes to the address above.

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Business-card sized ads (3½" × 2") \$10 per issue, quarter-page ads \$20 per issue, half-page ads \$30 per issue, full-page ads \$50 per issue. Deadline for payment and camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, is the 25th of each month.

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Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?

If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.

The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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Access to AIDS Care Specialists

by Lynn Dobbs

AB 2168 is on Governor Davis' desk. Make sure he signs it!

Not all HIV/AIDS health care is created equal. It takes a great deal of time and energy for physicians to keep up with the ever-changing treatment protocols related to HIV/AIDS, and most doctors can't keep up. Regardless of their good intentions, many doctors are not qualified to treat patients infected with HIV.

In existing California law, there is a requirement for health care plans to provide for standing referral specialists in cases of disease that require extended care or is life-threatening. The standing referral allows the specialist or the specialty care center to coordinate the patient's health care.

AB 2168 would add language that interprets HIV infection or an AIDS diagnosis as a "condition or disease that requires specialized medical care over a prolonged period of time and is life-threatening, degenerative, or disabling." This has the effect of providing greater access for a patient to an HIV/AIDS health provider with demonstrated expertise.

Effectively managing the day-to-day health care needs of a patient infected with HIV or diagnosed with AIDS is specialized care. Exaggerated susceptibility to disease-generating organisms, increased risk of developing various cancers, and unmerciful medication side effects leave the patient at a constant high risk and keep the doctors on their toes.

People living with HIV or AIDS have ongoing medical needs that are substantially different than the needs of the general population. Family doctors and general practitioners can't be expected to have this expertise and health service plans aren't likely to opt for a more expensive treatment plan without the force of law to move them.

The governor has an opportunity to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS have a greater chance of access to expert medical help. We hope you will urge him to sign AB 2168 without delay.

###

Thanking Our Assemblymembers

by Boyce Hinman

Lambda Letters was the driving force behind the introduction of AB 2142, a bill to amend California's Fair Employment and Housing Act to ban employment and housing discrimination against the transgendered community. The California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE) also played a major role in lobbying for the bill. In addition, over 20 straight groups supported the bill, including churches, unions, ethnic organizations, etc. The bill made remarkable progress. It was passed by the State Assembly. However, at this point it appears it will die in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

That is, of course, very disappointing. However, considering the newness of the issue to California's legislators, it is actually pretty amazing that it was approved by the Assembly on the first try. It took almost 18 years to amend California's Fair Employment and Housing Act to ban sexual orientation-based discrimination.

If the bill does die this year, Lambda Letters will be back with a new bill in January and we will be working with others throughout this fall so that we can start the new year running with a new bill.

Forty-one of the eighty Assemblymembers voted for AB 2142. We want to be sure to thank them, in part to encourage them to vote for the new bill next year. We also need to let those who voted against the bill know they got it wrong. Please write to your member of the Assembly to give them one or the other of these messages. You can simply sign the enclosed sample letter or use that letter as a model in composing your own. ###

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Out of Prison, Into Treatment

by Adrienne Lauby

In a single decade the number of women in California prisons has doubled to over 11,000. Fifty-four percent of these women are members of minority groups and eighty percent of them are mothers. Nationally, one-third of women convicts report being abused as children.

In addition to the usual culture of prison violence, women convicts routinely suffer from sexual abuse, poor medical care, and unwarranted restraint techniques at the hands of a mostly male correctional staff.

Stigmatized by the media, prison guard and police unions, these women, like other prisoners, have few friends. There is much to improve in their situation. But this November's election presents a rare opportunity to improve the lives of these women by sending less of them to prison in the first place.

Proposition 36 is a ballot measure that will require, in most cases, that a person convicted of non-violent drug possession and similar parole violations be placed on probation and enrolled in a treatment program.

Currently, treatment programs are available to only five percent of drug offenders. This proposition reverses the formula so that 95 percent of drug offenders get treatment.

More so than men, women go to prison for non-violent drug-related offenses. They proportionately stand to benefit more than men do from the passage of Proposition 36.

California's highest-ranking elected Democrat, Gray Davis, has generally opposed attempts to improve conditions in prisons. For instance, he recently vetoed the Lambda Letters-endorsed AB 2108, which would have expanded a tiny family rehabilitation program from 18 to 34 women.

It is hardly a coincidence that the California Correctional Peace Officers Association is a major contributor to Davis and other California Democrats. This organization employs 17 staff attorneys and has a \$17 million budget, which it uses to oppose anything that would reduce convictions. Under the name "Californians United Against Drug Abuse," they are the major enemies of Prop. 36.

California Cannot Ignore Housing Crisis

by Marty Martinez

A booming economy in California has resulted in massive increases in the costs of rents and mortgages throughout the state, and a severe shortage of affordable housing. People of color and urban-dwellers are powerfully impacted by this crisis, as are disabled individuals. Many persons with HIV and AIDS rely on Social Security income or other fixed payments to support themselves, and cost of living adjustments for these programs have not kept pace with skyrocketing costs for housing. Many persons with HIV and AIDS have seen their rents quadruple over short period, with no available rental assistance. But issues of affordable housing and homelessness have plagued California long before the current boom.

California, at the state level, does very little to assist with the creation of affordable housing, to provide housing assistance to the poor or disabled, or even to implement policies to correct the excessively white-hot housing market. Federal, county, and local governments must bear nearly the whole burden of providing housing programs.

Lambda Letters urges you to sign and send a letter on this issue to the chairs of the housing committees of the state legislature. The letters do not advocate for any particular bill or policy to address the housing issue, because no proposals are even in the legislature that stand a chance of passage. The letters are designed to urge our leaders to take the lead on this issue and come up with policies and legislation to address the housing crisis, and to work with the county and local governments to address the issue. ###

For many years, voters have funded prisons and supported tough penalties for lawbreakers, but this tide may finally be turning. Activists outside both Republican and Democratic Party conventions protested the "three-strikes law," mandatory sentencing, the "war on drugs," and other punitive measures. At the Shadow Conventions, speakers from many sectors condemned the war on drugs. Perhaps Governor Davis can yet be convinced to choose programs of positive change over negative stereotypes and abusive prisons. ###

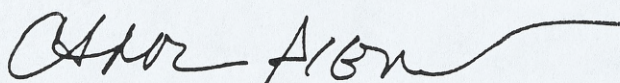
September Legislative Update

HIV/AIDS Issues

The following is the list of important state bills that we are aware of at this time. The list shows the status of bills as of August 28th. There is now one all-consuming deadline. State bills have to be approved by the legislature and sent to the Governor no later than August 31st. Any bill not making that deadline dies.

Here are the definitions of three, perhaps unfamiliar, terms or phrases you will find in the following list of bills:

- ♦ **Consent calendar:** This is a list of bills that legislators expect everyone to approve. To save time the bills are voted on as a group, rather than one by one. At the time of the vote, any one legislator can have a particular bill removed from the list for a separate vote. Any bills on the consent calendar, on the floor of either house, could be voted on any time after August 20th.
- ♦ **Suspense file:** This is a list of bills that will be voted on individually, but at a later date. The legislature's rules say that any bill expected to cost the state or local governments over \$150,000 must be put in the suspense file of the Appropriations Committee. The bills in the suspense file will be voted on by the committee late in August.
- ♦ **Concurrence:** Each bill must be approved by both the Assembly and the Senate before it can be sent to the Governor for signature. If a bill is approved by both houses but the second house to vote on it changes the bill before approving it, the bill must go back to the original house for its concurrence with (agreement with) the changes made to the bill by the second house. Only then can the bill go to the Governor for signature.



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AB 16 (Mike Honda, D-San Jose)

Purpose: Under current law the state and counties split the costs of providing publicly funded in-home supportive services for aged blind and disabled persons. However, if the counties or the agencies they contract with to provide the services grant a pay raise to the workers providing the care, the counties must foot the whole cost of the raise. This bill changes the law to say that even these pay raises will be funded equally by the state and the counties.

Status: Dropped by the author because the issue was taken care of by an item in the state budget.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 142 (Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To set rules and procedures for appeals to the Department of Corporations by health-care clients complaining of poor health care by their provider. Allows people to appeal to the state in 30 days in cases involving a serious health threat and less than 30 days in cases of severe pain.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Senate for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 499 (Dion Aroner, D-Berkeley)

Purpose: To require the state Department of Health Services to establish a pilot program to test the effectiveness of providing an assisted-living benefit to low-income beneficiaries, including those with AIDS, under the Medi-Cal program.

Status: Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 591 (Howard Wayne, D-San Diego)

Purpose: To require health-care service plans and certain disability insurers to cover routine patient costs related to treatment in a clinical trial of experimental medications.

Status: Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1722 (Martin Gallegos, D-City of Industry)

Purpose: Previously passed legislation says that health-care service plans can't stop covering a medication for a patient while the patient is under treatment for

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a particular ailment for which that drug has been prescribed. This legislation adds that the health-care provider cannot increase the copayment or other deductible for the medication during the course of treatment of a disease for which the medication has been prescribed until the end of the enrollee's contract.

Status: Approved by the Senate Insurance Committee.

Is on the Senate consent calendar.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1955 (Carol Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: Changed from an HIV/AIDS bill to one having to do with judges pensions.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Has been put in the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. Author is still fighting for it.

LLP Position: Neutral. Not relevant to our issues.

AB 2037 (Ellen Corbett, D-San Leandro)

Purpose: Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to conduct a demonstration project to provide certain services to children, under the age of 37 months, who are exposed to alcohol or drugs or who are HIV-positive. This bill increases the age to 60 months.

Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is on the floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2168 (Martin Gallegos, D-City of Industry)

Purpose: To require insurance providers to view HIV and AIDS as conditions or diseases that require treatment by a provider with demonstrated expertise in the treatment of these conditions.

Status: Sent to the Governor for signature.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2809 (Robert Pacheco, R-City of Industry)

Purpose: Existing law requires that a blood specimen be obtained from a pregnant woman before or at the time of delivery, and be tested for blood type and the presence of hepatitis B. This bill would require the blood also be tested for the presence of HIV. A woman could refuse HIV testing if she has been determined to be chronically infected with HIV or if a medical professional explains the purpose of testing and

the currently approved treatments. Proponents and opponents agreed to several good amendments to this bill prior to its being approved by the Assembly Health Committee. The revised version requires that the woman give informed, written consent prior to HIV testing. However, the California Medical Association tried to amend in some of the bad features of the bill again before the Health Committee vote. They failed at this time.

Status: Is on the Senate floor for a final vote in that house. If approved there, it will have to go back to the Assembly for concurrence.

LLP Position: Neutral.

SB 848 (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To require the state Department of Health Services to establish a voluntary program for the issuance of ID cards to qualified patients and to establish procedures under which those patients may use marijuana for medical purposes.

Status: Passed the Senate. Is a two-year bill awaiting a final vote on the floor of the Assembly.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1258 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require California to solicit approval from the federal government for California to provide Medi-Cal coverage to individuals who are HIV-positive, but who do not have AIDS. Current federal regulations limit the provision of Medi-Cal to people who have AIDS or who are otherwise disabled. Also directs the state to seek to make Medi-Cal managed care plans available to any person eligible for Medi-Cal through a share of cost.

Status: Died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Issues

AB 1785 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require school districts to report incidents of hate crimes in their schools and to establish procedures for doing so. Makes other changes to promote diversity in schools.

Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee and sent to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

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AB 1851 (John Longville, D—San Bernardino)

Purpose: To provide directions to state courts as to how to process petitions from post-operative transsexuals for recognition of their new sex and new gender-appropriate name. Has been amended to require people from out of state to live here six months before requesting such recognition.

Status: Passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Will be brought up in that Committee again. Author expects it to be approved by the legislature and sent to the Governor for signature.

LLP Position: Support. We are a sponsor of the bill.

AB 1906 (John Longville, D—San Bernardino)

Purpose: Originally to remove funding restrictions in the Education Code's Hate Violence Protection Act. However the author plans to accept an amendment that would restore those funding limitations.

Status: Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Has been put in the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

LLP Position: Neutral.

AB 1931 (Jack Scott, D—Pasadena)

Purpose: To require school districts to report annually on the number of suspensions and recommendations for expulsions resulting from school hate crimes. Appropriates \$150,000 for training to assist school district staff in identification of hate crimes. Provides \$2 million for student and teacher training focused on overcoming prejudice, countering hatred, and fostering ethnic sensitivity.

Status: Passed by the Senate Education Committee. Has been put in the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

LLP Position: Support.



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AB 2000 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To establish the California Commission on Human Relations in the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) to make policy recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the collection, dissemination of information, standards and guidelines for local human relations commissions. Appropriates \$150,000 to establish the commission.

Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2047 (Darrell Steinberg, D—Sacramento)

Purpose: Radically changed. It now expands the effect of registering as a domestic partner in California to any provision of law referring to domestic partners. Allows domestic partners to request an autopsy of their partner, to make medical treatment decisions for a partner in certain circumstances, to get preference when his or her partner needs a court appointed conservator, and to inherit from a partner who dies without a will. The bill revises the statutory will form to allow people to name their domestic partners as beneficiaries.

Status: Died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Its language may be amended into an Assembly bill now in the Senate. The Speaker of the Assembly must agree to this action. So far he has not done so.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2142 (Fred Keeley, D—Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To amend the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit employment and housing discrimination based on actual or perceived gender.

Status: Was approved by the Assembly. Failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The author has requested the committee to vote on it again. Efforts are being made to obtain the necessary yes votes in the committee. So far the Governor has been unwilling to help by expressing support of the bill.

LLP Position: Support. Lambda Letters is a cosponsor of the bill.

AB 2421 (Carole Midgen, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: The purpose of this bill was radically changed. It now states that only one member of opposite-gender couples needs to be over 62 for them to register with the state as domestic partners.

Status: Was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is on the Senate floor awaiting a final vote

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in that house. Will have to go back to the Assembly for concurrence.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1149 (Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require employers to grant family/medical leave to employees who need to care for seriously ill domestic partners, siblings, or grandparents.

Status: Is on the Assembly floor awaiting a final vote in that house. If passed by the Assembly, it will be returned to the Senate for concurrence.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1173 (John Vasconcellos D-San Jose)

Purpose: To allow courts to grant reasonable child visitation rights to *de facto* parents, including domestic partners in cases where the parents of a child have separated.

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.

LLP Position: Watch. There is some concern this might be used against biological mothers.

SB 1410 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)

Purpose: Provides that domestic partners of San Mateo County employees will be eligible for the same survivor benefits received by spouses of county employees if the member and the member's domestic partner have a current Affidavit of Domestic Partnership on file with San Mateo County for at least one year prior to the member's retirement or death before retirement.

Status: Passed the Senate and Assembly. Returned to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 2025 (John Burton, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To incorporate all the provisions of the Fair

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Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) into the State Civil Service Act. Thus provides the protections of FEHA (including protections from sexual orientation-based discrimination) to state employees.

Status: Sent to the Governor for signature.

LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 1746 (Scott Wildman, D-Glendale)

Purpose: To improve educational opportunities for American Indians.

Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Awaiting final vote on the Senate floor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2417 (Marco Firebaugh, D-Huntington Park)

Purpose: To extend eligibility of legal immigrants for food and cash assistance beyond the current September 30th cutoff date.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Awaiting final vote on the Senate floor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 66 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require every peace officer in the state to receive training on racial profiling. Outlaws the practice. Requires peace officers to provide business cards to people stopped for alleged traffic violations. The business card feature was added when the Governor forced the Senator to drop SB 1389.

Status: Has passed the Assembly and been sent back to the Senate for concurrence with changes made in the Assembly.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 984 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To establish March 31st as Cesar Chavez Day and to designate the date as a paid holiday for state employees. Requires public schools to teach about Cesar Chavez.

Status: Signed by the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1246 (Martha Escutia, D-Montebello)

Purpose: Changed to establish a program to help farm workers find work during agriculture's off season.

Status: Is in Senate Appropriations Committee. Author is still fighting for the bill.

LLP Position: Support.

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SB 1326 (Tom Hayden, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: Purpose changed to require the State Department of Education to report on amount of diversity training occurring in public schools. Community Colleges are required to report on the number of hate crimes occurring on their campuses.

Status: Failed on the Assembly floor. Reconsideration granted.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1364 (Patrick Johnston, D—Stockton)

Purpose: Current law prohibits health-care professionals and organizations from releasing the results of genetic testing to a third party without the prior written consent of the person tested. This bill stipulates that the prohibition also applies to genetic traits in which the person is asymptomatic for the disease which might result from a genetic trait. Also requires the state to set standards for those who care for patients with illnesses relating to genetic trait.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Returned to the

Senate for concurrence.

LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 1898 (Hilda Solis, D—El Monte)

Purpose: To establish a program to increase the percentage of students transferring from California's community colleges to four-year colleges or universities.

Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Bill is dead.

LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 40 (Howard Wayne, D—San Diego)

Purpose: To establish the Breast Cancer Treatment Program for purposes of providing breast cancer treatment services to uninsured and underinsured women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Also to require the State Department of Health Services to administer the program only when the Legislature has appropriated funds for the program.

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Status: Dropped by the author. The issue was taken care of by AB 2878 which was signed by the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 525 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Encino)

Purpose: To require hospitals and disability plans to advise potential customers that they may want to request information about reproductive services provided by the plan before signing up with it.

Status: Approved and sent to the Governor for signature..

LLP Position: Support.

AB 591 (Howard Wayne, D-San Diego)

Purpose: To require health-care plans to pay for routine patient care costs when patients are in Phase II or Phase III clinical trials of experimental medications or treatments if the treatment is for a life-threatening illness.

Status: Is in Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. Author is still fighting for it.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 908 (Elaine White Alquist, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To establish the gender equity train-the-trainer grant program for the award of grants from funds available for that purpose to the governing boards of school districts and county offices of education. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop criteria for the grant applications and to select grant recipients. The end-purpose of the program would be to train public school teachers in gender-equity education.

Status: Passed the Senate Appropriations Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1814 (Ted Lempert, D-Palo Alto)

Purpose: To provide that mothers who are breast feeding their children be exempt from jury duty until they stop breast feeding their children.

Status: Sent to the Governor for signature.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1856 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Encino)

Purpose: To make non-owner, non-supervisory employees liable for harassment of coworkers on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation. Introduced to reverse a State Supreme Court decision that said such harassment by owners or supervisors is prohibited by law, but not harassment by coworkers.

Status: Sent to the Governor for signature.

LLP Position: Support

AB 2038 (Elaine White Alquist, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To require a grantee in conducting or supporting a project of clinical research to ensure that women of all ages and members of minority groups are included as subjects in the clinical research projects.

Status: Passed by both houses and sent to the Governor for signature.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2108 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that all terminally-ill female inmates receiving hospice care in the Central Women's Facility receive a standard of care similar to the treatment given to male inmates at the state prison facility in Vacaville.

Status: Sent to the Governor for signature or veto.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2357 (Mike Honda, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To require employers to grant a victim of domestic abuse up to 15 days of unpaid leave in a 12-month period so the employee can seek legal assistance, counseling, assistance from a domestic violence shelter, etc., to deal with the domestic violence.

Status: Sent to the Governor for signature.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 193 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law provides for the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund. Ninety

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Deborah A. Brooks

Certified Public Accountant



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percent of the moneys in the Breast Cancer Research Account is allocated to the Breast Cancer Research Program created at the University of California. This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to offer for sale breast cancer license plates to be sold at a price determined by the department, with the proceeds to be deposited into the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund.

Status: Sent to the Governor for signature.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1154 (Jackie Speier, D-Daly City)

Purpose: To enact the California Breast and Gynecological Cancer Treatment Program, administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, to provide treatment services to low income, underinsured women.

Status: The bill is dead. Senator Speier will not push the bill because necessary federal legislation has not been passed by Congress.

LLP Position: Support. ###

Hate Crimes Rising

Continued from page 1

transgendered people began in 1996 when Lambda Letters approached then-State Senator Diane Watson to introduce a bill requiring the counting and reporting of such crimes. She initially agreed to introduce the bill, but later backed off to concentrate on other issues. Sheila Kuehl agreed to introduce AB 1999, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Wilson. The Lambda Letters Web site (www.lambdaleters.org) shows a letter from the Attorney General, as well as a link to the report. ###

Return Those Letters!

Continued from page 1

us promote the Project, gain more members, and increase our effectiveness.

We also keep track of who returns letters to us. If we don't hear from you in three months, we will send you a letter asking if you are still interested in receiving our mailings. By weeding out people who have lost interest, we cut our costs so we can spend our limited resources more effectively. Please return your letters to Lambda Letters. We will quickly count them and deliver them to your elected officials. ###

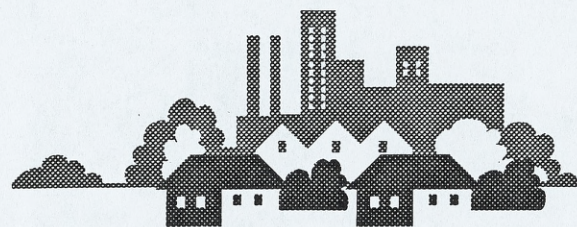
Revel in Fairy Flicks

For a perfect date or evening out with your friends, don't miss Sacramento's premier film event for the year. The Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival presents Fairy Flicks 2000. Fairy Flicks promises to be one of the most outstanding and entertaining collections yet. As always, you can count on creative and colorful shorts produced by artists from all over the world. In addition, the feature films—"Paragraph 175," "Swallows," and "The Investigator"—offer something for everyone.

For more information about the film festival, contact Kerry Sawyer at (916) 689-3284, or visit the festival's Web site at www.fairyflicks.com. ###

Don't Know Who Represents You?

Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaleters.org to find out who represents you.



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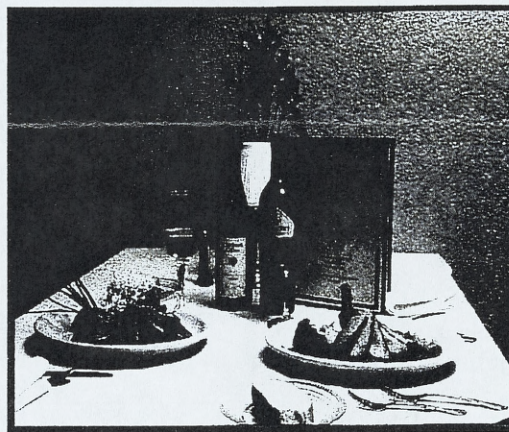
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